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gestive of some human gratitude. The old birds were shy and we had quite a little difficulty in getting photos of them. We arranged it, however, by setting the camera on a nest with a rock to keep it down and pulling the shutter with a long thread. The picture in this article, in which there are several old pelicans, was taken in this way. We spent several days with this interesting colony of cormorants and pelicans, collecting and taking notes and photos, all of which was done with difficulty, as the hillside on which the colony was situated was very steep and slippery from the ice-plant.

**Ardea herodias.** Great Blue Heron. Several seen but none taken.

**Heteractitis incanus.** Wandering Tattler. Several seen on South and Middle Islands.

**Arenaria melanocephala.** Black Turnstone. Several seen on South Island; none taken.

**Hæmatopus bachmani.** Black Oyster-catcher. Four seen on Middle Island; only one taken.

**Lophortyx californicus vallicola.** Valley Quail. I went out on the first day and took two before I discovered that there were only about forty on South Island. These specimens are very faded and worn. These birds ought not be disturbed at all.

**Falco peregrinus anatum.** Duck Hawk. There were three pairs on South and Middle Island, but none taken.

**Aeronantes melanoleucus.** White-throated Swift. Quite a number on South Island.

**Selasphorus alleni.** Allen Hummingbird. A hummer which I took to be of this species, I found on South Island quite common.

**Corvus corax sinuatus.** American Raven. Several seen on South Island.

**Melospiza coronatorum.** Coronado Song Sparrow. For some reason these birds are very rare and exceedingly shy. I took none, as they kept out of range. We saw a few and heard some singing.

**Carpodacus mexicanus clementis.** San Clemente House Finch. Very common on all three islands. Their plumage is very light, the head of the males being pale yellow instead of red.

**Helminthophila celata sordida.** Dusky Warbler. Several old and young seen on South Island. I found one on the ground which was too young to fly; the parent birds were flying around evidently taking care of it.

**Salpinctes obsoletus.** Rock Wren. Very abundant on South Island, on the hill sides. One old nest found with an addled egg. It was near camp in a natural cavity in the cliff. The wren, for some reason, was going in and out of the cavity when we discovered the nest.

*Pasadena, California.*

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Nest of the Western Meadowlark.**—The nest of the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) shown on the next page was discovered, one morning in May as I was riding the range on the Rancho San Geronimo, by my horse nearly stepping on it, frightening the poor owner so that she "looked not upon the order of her going" but fluttered away in great haste. It happened that her temporary domicile was so placed that a slight parting of the grass in front of it would allow the rays of the early morning sun to shine directly upon the eggs. This seemed

such a good opportunity to show the structure of the nest and the customary half-hood over it that the next day found me at the right hour on the spot with a camera, with the accompanying more or less unsatisfactory result. This nest was built in a cow track, faced toward the east, and was on a hill-side in such a way that the opening was up hill. In consequence of this the camera had to be more inclined even than if the ground were level, thus distorting the relative positions. But the structure and hood show fairly well. The photo was taken May 25, 1908, and the eggs were about fresh.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California*.

**Condors in a Flock**—On October 1, 1908, about noon, I saw 18 Condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) at one time at a point about 3 miles southwest of McKittrick, Kern County. In all of my work along the southeastern side of the Diablo and Tumbler ranges during the last two years I have seen but two or three Condors, and this flock of 18 certainly were a surprise to me. As soon as I saw them I laid down on top of a hill and while eating my lunch had an excellent opportunity of observing them. I had my no. 8 binoculars and was able to bring some of them in very close as they circled over me. It was a great sight and one that I will never forget, as the greatest number I ever saw at any one time before was a flock of four which I saw in 1896, I think it was, on my way to Bear Valley, above San Bernardino.—RALPH ARNOLD, *Washington, D. C.*



NEST OF WESTERN MEADOWLARK, SAN GERONIMO,

MARIN COUNTY

Photo by J. Mailliard

**Scolecophagus carolinus in Colorado.**—While returning from a short trip up the South Fork of the Platt River, from Littleton, Colorado, February 20, 1909, I had the good fortune of meeting with a small flock of blackbirds, resembling the Brewer. There were about eight in the flock, males and females. I shot one and attempted to secure more, but they were very wild and escaped. They were in thick cottonwood growth near the river. The weather was mild with no snow on the ground.

Later, the bird taken (a male) was identified by Mr. Horace G. Smith, as a Rusty Blackbird, *Scolecophagus carolinus*, a rare bird for Colorado. The skin is now in my collection.

According to Prof. W. W. Cooke (Birds of Colorado, page 95) there are but two other records for Colorado: a pair collected near Denver, December 17, 1883, by H. G. Smith, and one taken by Prof. Wm. Osborn at Loveland, in November, 1889. Note that all these are winter records.—GEORGE RICHARDS, *Littleton, Colorado*.

**The Swamp Sparrow on the Lower Rio Grande.**—From rush grass growing along the banks of the Rio Grande, near Brownsville, Texas, I flushed three or four birds of this species (*Melospiza georgiana*) on December 23, 1908. One bird being secured proved to be an adult male.

Whether or not the species has been taken previously this far south, I cannot say positively; but the most extreme record I find (for Texas) prior to this note, is near San Antonio.—AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, *Brownsville, Texas*.

**The American Redstart in Southern California.**—On December 27, 1905, while collecting on the shore of Keweenaw Lake, near Pasadena, California, I found an American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) female, dead among the tules under a cottonwood tree. As far as I have been able to learn, this is an unusual record for the bird. Upon the suggestion of Grinnell the specimen was sent to Robert Ridgway and was identified as of this species.—PINGREE I. OSBURN, Pasadena, California.

**Ancient Murrelet at San Clemente.**—During December, 1908, I secured several Ancient Murrelets (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) about San Clemente Island. Oftentimes while "working" the coasts, I observed the remains of Ancient Murrelets and Cassin Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) among the other victims of the storms. The southern (winter) range of *Synthliboramphus antiquus* includes the entire group of Santa Barbara Islands.—C. B. LINTON, Long Beach, California.

**The small American Crossbill in California.**—This museum has recently acquired a California-taken crossbill, which is apparently identical with the eastern form—*Loxia curvirostra minor*. It is a ♂ adult (full red plumage, in color exactly like the average of eastern examples); no. 7199, Univ. Calif. Mus. Vert. Zool.; Nicasio, Marin Co., Calif.; Feb. 21, 1909; collected by Louise Kellogg. Measurements: wing, 79.7; tail, 51.7; tarsus, 14.8; culmen, 13.3; bill from nostril, 11.9; depth of bill, 7.9.

This is the first example I ever saw of this form from the State, the usual race being *L. c. bendirei* (or if this be not recognized, *L. c. stricklandi*). A specimen of the latter secured in the same locality, but at another time, has kindly been sent to me by Joseph Mailliard. It is a ♂ adult (full red plumage, but of lighter, pinker hue than in eastern birds); no. 5652, Coll. J. & J. W. Mailliard; Nicasio, Marin Co., Calif.; March 5, 1895. Measurements: wing, 96.2; tail, 63.8; tarsus, 16.6; culmen, 17.8; bill from nostril, 15.8; depth of bill, 10.1.

The great discrepancy in size between the two forms, as shown by the above measurements, is not bridged over by variations in the material at hand. One other example from California referable to *minor* has just come to light (no. 5654, ♂, Coll. J. & J. W. M.). This is very like no. 7199, tho a trifle larger. It seems probable that the small form is merely an irregular winter visitant to the State, in the same role as east of the Rockies. Certainly the resident and breeding bird is always the larger race, judging from many summer birds from various parts of the transition and boreal zones in California.—J. GRINNELL, University of California, Berkeley, California.

**Winter Notes from Clipper Gap, Placer County.**—*Sturnella neglecta*. The Western Meadowlark has appeared in large numbers the past winter, feeding almost entirely in grain fields. I have heard complaints on all sides as to the damage done by this bird this winter.

*Carpodacus purpureus californicus*. The purple finch takes the place, to some extent, of the house finch here during the winter months, and this year is more common than usual. I have never found the purple finch breeding here, tho it is reported at Colfax in summer.

*Carpodacus cassinii*. Cassin Purple Finch. Not often noted here; but common during two weeks of cold weather in December, 1908.

*Loxia curvirostra bendirei*. I took my first crossbill at this elevation (1750 feet) December 16, during a severe snowstorm. A flock of six was noted.

*Chondestes grammacus strigatus*. Western Lark Sparrow. Feb. 15, I noted a flock of seven of these birds, the earliest spring record I have.

*Ixoreus naevius meruloides*. The Varied Thrush and Sierra Junco (*J. h. thurberi*) are unusually numerous this winter. The thrush is all over our hills, while commonly restricted to small numbers in the deeper canyons.

*Merula migratoria propinqua*. Western Robin. Only two or three seen up to January; later they have become more common, tho far below their usual numbers.—E. ADAMS, Clipper Gap, Placer County, California.

**Behavior of a Young Rivoli Hummingbird.**—During the early part of July, 1908, three young relatives of mine, while camped in Ramsey Canyon, of the Huachuca Mountains, Arizona, had an interesting experience with a young Rivoli Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) and its mother.

After a heavy rain one afternoon, they noticed a large hummingbird flying about as tho much excited and on investigating found a half fledged and half drowned young one lying on the ground near the creek.

One of the girls picked it up and warmed it in her hands. It soon revived and was fed with honey on the end of a toothpick. The honey was pushed well down its throat and was evidently quite appreciated. To make it open its bill they would tickle it on the corner of

its mouth. It spent the night in some cotton and a handkerchief arranged as a nest in a candy box lid.

Early the next morning they were awakened by the buzzing of wings and found that the mother bird had found her young one and was investigating its condition and surroundings, coming into their sleeping quarters to do so.

On this day she fed it at intervals, perching on the edge of the box lid while doing so. On the next day they were holding it in their hands and feeding it honey when the mother arrived. She was quite puzzled as to what to do, but after some few seconds' hesitation alighted on the tip of the fingers of the hand which held the youngster, and fed it. Afterward she buzzed close to it and pushed it, apparently trying to coax it to fly and being quite vexed because it would not try.

The slightest movement was enough to startle the old bird, but she would return in a moment and alight on the hand which held the young one. The young people held it thus for a couple of hours during which time the scene described was repeated several times.

While the mother bird was away gathering food, the youngster would buzz its wings trying to fly but would not make the endeavor when its mother was present. All three of the people took turns holding it and the mother alighted on their hands without hesitation after her first experience.

They kept the bird for four days in the house. Its plumage, which had been very scant at first, rapidly spread. When found, there were only pinfeathers in the tail and on the neck, back and breast. At the end of four days the bare portions were pretty well covered and the bird could fly a few feet. They then put it out doors and for two days kept close track of it as it flew from one twig to another near by. The feathers seemed very nearly all developed by this time. It could fly well and was seen for several days in the vicinity with its mother. One of the astonishing features was the rapidity with which the feathers burst out.

A weak squeak was its only note, uttered at short intervals, except when its mother arrived when it chirped quite energetically.

Unfortunately, there was no camera present to record these interesting events, which at best can be poorly reported in words.—F. C. WILLARD, *Tombstone, Arizona*.

**The Derby Flycatcher (*Pitangus derbianus*) a permanent Resident Within our Boundaries.**—Written of as "rather a rare summer visitor in the lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas" in Bailey's Handbook of Birds of the Western United States, we must now alter this statement, and call it a permanent resident, in moderate numbers.

On January 5, 1909, while hunting some four miles up the river from Brownsville, and having entered a dense growth composed largely of the so-called Ebony (*Siderocarpus flexicaulis*) my attention was directed to a water hole, of some forty feet diameter, by the calls of Green Jays (*Xanthoura luxiosa glaucescens*). Upon approaching, a great clatter commenced, which I attributed to the Jays. Perceiving a motion in the brush at the edge of the hole, and without any clear view of a bird, I fired. The victim was a Derby Flycatcher, and it had been co-participant with the Jays in the great uproar. Later I discerned the more usual notes of another Derby, in the same brush, but owing to the density of the particular portion of the scrub in which this individual held forth, pursuit was impracticable. The water hole, about which these flycatchers and various other birds gathered, was garnished with many insects, both dead and alive, which suggest its avian attractions.

Two more of this species were secured on February 10, in the same locality, and likewise in dense scrub, where I was attracted to them by their harsh and persistent notes. However, the Derby Flycatcher keeps so well within growth of this character, both here and in Mexico, that many examples of it might occur in a single locality, and yet comparatively few be noted.—AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, *Brownsville, Texas*.

**Flicker Feathers.**—Among the curios of the Pacific Coast Indians in the museum in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California, is an ornament in the shape of a thin flat belt, six or eight feet long—probably worn over the head—composed entirely, or nearly so, of the tail feathers (rectrices) of flickers (*Colaptes*). The feathers are so placed that the quills are toward the center, the butts overlapping each other, the ends of the feathers being evenly arranged toward the outside, all same side uppermost, and fastened together with fine twine. This ornament must represent a large number of birds and is unique under any circumstances. But one of the most interesting things about it is the fact that every once in a while—say from one to two feet apart—the rectrices of a cross-bred flicker (*cafer + auratus*) appear. It seems as if the tails of the birds must have been added as they were killed, for the more or less golden quills of the cross-bred birds appear in bunches of ten or twelve, making distinct breaks in the color scheme, while if the feathers had been indiscriminately mixed before being fastened in the belt these golden shafts would hardly be noticeable. This ornament is locked in a glass case, lying topside uppermost, as it were, and I had no opportunity to examine the underside where the gilding of the feathers would have been much more distinct.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California*.